

# Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration



November 2007

## US Route 101 East Washington Street Interchange

Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation



The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.



# --- **General Information About This Document** ---

## **What's in this document:**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study to satisfy CEQA, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed Project located in Sonoma County, California. The document describes why the Project is being proposed, alternatives for the Project, the existing environment that could be affected by the Project, the potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or protection measures.

## **What you should do:**

Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document are available for review at the Petaluma Public Library, 100 Fairgrounds, Petaluma, CA 94952, (707) 763-9801.

- We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the proposed Project, please send your written comments to the Department by the deadline of December 14, 2007.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:

Valerie Heusinkveld, Office of Environmental Analysis  
Mail Station 8-B  
Dept. of Transportation  
P.O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623

- Submit comments via email to [valerie\\_heusinkveld@dot.ca.gov](mailto:valerie_heusinkveld@dot.ca.gov).
- **Submit comments by the deadline: December 14, 2007.**

## **What happens next:**

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed Project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the Project. If the Project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, the Department could design and construct all or part of the Project.

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For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternative formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Office of Environmental Analysis, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612; or use the California Relay Service TTY number, (800) 735-2929.

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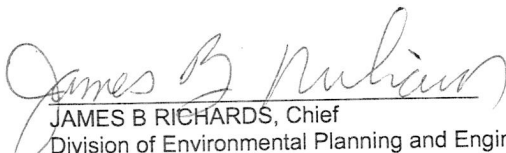


Sonoma 101 East Washington Interchange Improvements in the City of Petaluma

## INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Submitted Pursuant to: Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

  
JAMES B RICHARDS, Chief  
Division of Environmental Planning and Engineering  
California Department of Transportation – District 04

11/05/07  
Date of Approval



## **PROPOSED Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

### **Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to modify the East Washington Street Interchange on U.S. Route 101 in Petaluma, Sonoma County, to reduce traffic congestion that routinely backs up onto the mainline of the highway. The Project includes reconfiguring the southbound on-ramp, widening the terminus of the northbound off-ramp from two lanes to four lanes, and adding a new northbound diagonal on-ramp with a new bridge to free-span Washington Creek.

### **Determination**

This proposed Initial Study (IS) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this Project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the Project is final. This IS is subject to modification based on comments received from interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an IS for this Project, and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

Impacts to visual resources would be mitigated to a level that is less than significant with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

Mitigation Measure 2.3-1: Replacement Landscaping in Southwest Quadrant between Proposed Bio-Strip and Drainage Ditch

Mitigation Measure 2.3-2: Enhanced Tree Planting on Interchange Embankments; Enhanced Redwood Planting in Offsite Locations

Mitigation Measure 2.3-3: Northbound On-Ramp Retaining Wall Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 2.3-4: Visual Screening of Shopping Center Loading Docks

Mitigation Measure 2.3-5: Minimization of Tree Removal in Interchange and on East Washington Street

Mitigation Measure 2.3-6: Replacement Planting Within Interchange

Mitigation Measure 2.3-7: Preservation of Existing Trees, or Replacement Planting at Frontage of Apartments in Northeast Quadrant

Mitigation Measure 2.3-8: Mitigation of Construction-related Light and Glare Impacts

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James B. Richards

Date

Deputy District Director of Environmental Planning and Engineering  
California Department of Transportation – District 4

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## List of Abbreviated Terms

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AADT	annual average daily traffic
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ASR	Archaeological Survey Report
BA	Biological Assessment
BAAB	Bay Area Air Basin
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CE	Categorical Exclusion
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	Decibels
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration
FEMA FIS	Federal Emergency Management Administration Flood Insurance Studies
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
HPSR	Historic Property Survey Report
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
IS	Initial Study
ISA	International Society of Arboriculture
KP or kp	Kilometer Post
Leq(h)	Hourly Equivalent Sound Level
LWF	Lightweight Fill
LOTB's	Log of Test Borings
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCE	Maximum Credible Earthquake
mm	millimeter
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MSATs	Mobile Source Air Toxics
MSE	Mechanical Stabilized Embankment
MSN	Marin Sonoma Narrows
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria

NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NES	Natural Environment Study
NLEV	National Low Emission Vehicle
NO <sub>x</sub>	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PDCD	Petaluma Community Development Commission
PSR	Project Study Report
PM or pm	Post Mile
PM	Particulate Matter
RFG	Reformulated Gasoline
ROW	Right of Way
SCWA	Sonoma County Water Agency
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TASAS	Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System
TCEs	Temporary Construction Easements
TCM	Traffic Control Measures
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
VIA	Visual Impact Analysis
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
Waters	Waters of the U.S.